



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

BOARD OF FINANCE

ROBERT J. CLEMENTS
Chairman

RICHARD J. CLEARY
MARK A. JOYSE
BARRY C. PINTO
MICHAEL D. VARNEY
JOSEPH E. WEHR

BOARD OF FINANCE REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2009

MEMBERS

PRESENT: R. Clements-Chairman, R. Cleary, M. Joyse, B. Pinto, J. Wehr and M. Varney

OTHERS

PRESENT: N. DiCorleto-Finance Officer, J. Turner-Selectman, Various Residents.

Call to Order

Chairman Robert Clements called the regular meeting of the Board of Finance to order at 8:04 pm.

Citizens Forum

Mr. Neal, 17 Blueberry Circle stated his concern that the Board of Selectmen go ahead with scheduling of town meetings before the Board of Finance has voted on the item. Mr. Clements stated that the Board of Finance vote is not determined by what the Board of Selectmen does, and that the Finance Board does what it feels is good for the town at the time. He also stated that sometimes it is done for scheduling.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED (WEHR) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 9, 2008 AS WRITTEN.

Financial Statements

Mr. DiCorleto told the Board that the Town had received a check from the State of CT for School Heating Assistance in the amount of \$31,027. This amount is determined on a per student figure based on student enrollment of 2,598. He would like to credit the Board of Education for this amount just as he does the ECS Grants.

MOVED (CLEARY) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE \$31,027 FOR SCHOOL HEATING ASSISTANCE FROM THE STATE OF CT AND CREDIT IT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The Finance Officer then passed out the audit reports that were received today. He will invite the auditors to attend the February 3 meeting to do their audit presentation. He also pointed out that revenues for the Board of Education include a contribution to the teacher's pension fund.

He then passed out a spreadsheet showing the Town's financial status as of 12/31/08. There is presently a balance of \$1.7 million in unreserved fund balance.

The Board will still reinforce their position of zero increase budgets for 2009-10. It was agreed that the Chairman will send out another memo to department heads in this regard.

Additional Appropriations/Recommendation to Town Meeting

- Removal of Milfoil from Crystal Lake

This is a request for an additional appropriation to hire a firm to suction harvest milfoil from Crystal Lake. Mr. Clements asked how it got in the lake and is there a way to monitor what comes in and out of the lake to prevent it from spreading. Several members of the Crystal Lake Association were in attendance and told the Board that the boat launch is owned by the State of CT DEP and therefore, they have no jurisdiction there. Mr. Moody stated that the large number of water fowl in the lake also helps to spread the plant. The harvesting can help to control the infestation but it will never be eliminated completely.

Mr. Turner stated that the milfoil has been multiplying for years. In 2005 the State of CT used Crystal Lake to do a study to see how well the suction harvesting method resulted in eliminating the plants. They received good results and the DEP recommends this method.

Mr. Mickiewicz of the CL Association stated that two years ago it was determined that 20 acres were infested. Suction harvesting will mitigate the milfoil for several years.

The DEP grant that was applied for is \$50,000 maximum and 25% matching which equates to \$67,000. The total amount has to be appropriated and then the grant put against it as revenue. Mr. Cleary asked how many acres could be harvested with this grant and was told roughly 11 acres.

When the grant program was discovered the CL Association started working with the First Selectman to apply for the maximum. Certain sections of the lake are targeted for the initial harvesting. There are only two contractors in the State that do this work and one of them has given the Association a price of \$65,000. In the future the Crystal Lake Association would like to purchase a boat and two suction machines for future maintenance of the milfoil. Mr. Mickiewicz estimated that these items would cost \$12,000.

One member of the association has put together an underwater rover equipped with a video camera and GPS system to map out the bottom of the lake and use the GPS to relocate the areas. The State is interested in this camera system. That, and the fact that they used Crystal Lake for their testing in 2005 may help Ellington get on the top of the list for the grant. There is also a time factor for the grant and they are moving quickly to get it in to the State.

Mr. Turner told the Board that Mr. Graziani is familiar with this project and is looking for additional funds. The Town of Stafford is not in the program at this time, but the water currents run out of Ellington into Stafford so it should not be a problem. Mr. Turner stated that that Town will lose the value of the lake if it gets choked off by these plants. This project should not be put off. The areas to be harvested will be mapped as soon as the ice melts. Milfoil only grows where the water is 20 ft deep or less. The group estimates that 50% of the lake is 20 ft or less. The lake is a total of 200 acres.

Mr. Cleary stated he would like to see some preventative and education measures taken such as signs or volunteers handing out flyers to educate boaters. Mr. Turner agreed that the area of education could be improved, and the CL Association will have someone on site opening day to education boaters. There are signs posted by DEP, but they are mostly not enforced.

Mr. Varney asked who would be administering the contracts and hiring a contractor. Mr. Turner felt that the First Selectman would be signing contracts and coordinating through the CL Association since this is where the process began.

MOVED (CLEARY) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF \$67,000 FROM FY 2008-09 UNDESIGNATED GENERAL FUND BALANCE TO CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND FOR THE REMOVAL OF MILFOIL FROM CRYSTAL LAKE BY SUCTION HARVESTING METHODS AND TO SEND TO A TOWN MEETING. THIS APPROPRIATION MAY BE PARTIALLY REIMBURSABLE THROUGH A STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GRANT IN AN AMOUNT UP TO \$50,000.

New Business

- Appointment to Ad Hoc Plan of Conservation & Development Implementation Committee

Mr. Wehr volunteered to be on this committee.

- BOE Budget Workshop

The workshop is scheduled for Saturday, January 10, 2009. Mr. Clements and Mr. Wehr will attend. Anyone else interested may also attend.

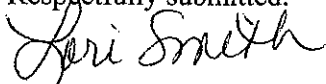
Old Business

There was more discussion about the budget guidelines and budgeting process.

Adjournment

MOVED (CLEARY) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Lori Smith, Recording Clerk